

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

June 23, 2003

The President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The United States military and its allies performed with great speed, effectiveness, and bravery in defeating the regime of Saddam Hussein and liberating the Iraqi people from oppression. As we progress in helping Iraq rebuild, I look forward to continuing to work with your administration in engaging the international community and providing the resources needed to help the Iraqi people establish democracy, enhance security, and ensure prosperity.

The ability of the United States to continue to defend against enemies known and unknown is dependent on the most accurate and reliable intelligence possible. While I am confident that our intelligence community continues to work tirelessly to ensure the security of the American people, serious questions regarding the extent of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction programs undermine the credibility of the United States both at home and abroad to accurately assess threats against our nation in the future.

As a member of Congress who supported the authorization to use force against Iraq, I feel strongly that we must act quickly to address these concerns. The American people must have confidence in their government's ability to accurately determine international threats if we are to continue to be successful in the war against terrorism. Further, people interested in freedom throughout the world must have confidence in our ability to lead broad-based coalitions to enhance security and justifiably use force when necessary.

Therefore, I urge your support in establishing an independent commission to review and assess the intelligence collection, analysis, and dissemination process with regard to Iraq's weapons of mass destruction programs. Through this independent and comprehensive investigation we can better measure the capabilities of the United States intelligence community in determining threats posed by regimes seeking and/or possessing weapons of mass destruction. The commission will also provide a base of information allowing your administration and Congress to optimize intelligence resources and move forward with any necessary reforms.

An independent commission will provide the American people a thorough review of our intelligence activities leading up to the use of force against Iraq and answer questions regarding the accuracy of public representations on the threat posed by Iraq. In addition, it will eliminate any perception of political partisanship inherent in congressional or executive investigations. Members of the commission will be respected U.S. citizens

with extensive experience in national security. A list of candidates can include prominent former national leaders such as Brent Scowcroft, William Perry, Samuel Berger, James Baker, and others.

Moving forward now with an independent commission to study the intelligence capabilities of the United States in determining threats posed by weapons of mass destruction programs is important for future security operations and to ensure government credibility. It is key that Congress and your administration work closely in addressing the concerns raised regarding Iraq's weapons of mass destruction programs, and I urge your support as I work with my colleagues in Congress to establish an independent commission.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact me if I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron", written in a cursive style.

Ron Kind
Member of Congress